



# Pilgrim News

Fall 2018

## Fall Meeting – Sunday, November 18, 2018

### Meeting & Thanksgiving Dinner RSVP Information

Please join us for our Annual Meeting and Thanksgiving Dinner on **Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018**, at 1 p.m. at a new location: Hillcrest Country Club in Lincoln, 9410 East O Street. The new location was selected for easy access, convenient free parking (drop-off lane by main entrance) and competitive meal pricing. The menu includes a traditional Thanksgiving feast of turkey, mashed potatoes, dressing, vegetable, rolls and of course pumpkin pie. A vegetarian option will also be available.

RSVP by **Monday, Nov. 12** so we can provide our final count to Hillcrest. Send your reservation form (on Page 2 of this newsletter) and checks payable to the Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants to **Bonnie Kolowski, 4815 South 158<sup>th</sup> Circle Omaha, NE 68135** -- or pay online at [www.NebraskaMayflower.org/dues](http://www.NebraskaMayflower.org/dues) using PayPal or a credit card. The cost for the dinner is \$27.50 per person (\$7.50 less than last year!).

To reach Hillcrest Country Club: from I-80, take exit 409 for US-6 toward Waverly/East Lincoln, then turn left onto 84<sup>th</sup> Street and then a left onto O Street. Hillcrest's drive is on the right.



The Board of Assistants will meet at noon before the Dinner meeting. As a member of our Society, you are always welcome to attend our Board of Assistants meeting.

### Mayflower Trivia Bingo

Back by popular demand! Again this year we will play Mayflower Trivia Bingo, so brush up on your Mayflower knowledge and come ready to impress your cousins.

### Search Your Home for Treasures

Items are needed for our fourth annual Silent Auction. Search your home for treasures – home décor, tickets to sports events or shows, gift cards to movies or restaurants, or Mayflower-themed items, etc., to donate to the auction. Proceeds benefit the Burt & Becky Whedon Memorial Scholarship fund (see Page 8 for details on this year's scholarship winner). Reach out to Cheryl L. Clark ([cherylclark@q.com](mailto:cherylclark@q.com), PO Box 116, Elwood, NE 68937-0116, or (308) 785-2046), by **Nov. 6** with your item's description and minimum bid. This is a fun way to raise money needed for our scholarship fund. Come to the meeting on Nov. 18 ready to bid early and often!

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[NebraskaMayflower.org](http://NebraskaMayflower.org)

Visit [www.NebraskaMayflower.org](http://www.NebraskaMayflower.org) for the latest news, past issues of Pilgrim News and much more.

We're on Facebook, too. Like us at [www.facebook.com/nebraskamayflower](https://www.facebook.com/nebraskamayflower)

## A Letter from Our Governor

Dear Cousins,

It continues to be a great honor for me to serve as the 30th Governor of our Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants. And it's been a busy year so far! We gathered in April for our Spring Meeting at a new location—Embassy Suites-LaVista—with one of our largest Spring Meeting attendances ever—nearly 60. We presented our Burt & Becky Whedon Memorial Scholarship to Ralston High School Senior Cassidy Amber Loucks and heard a presentation by Fran Ruh, a descendent of Pilgrim James Chilton and one of the Nebraska Society's newest members who is the author of *The Schepp Family Chronicles*.

In July, members gathered at Lauritzen Gardens for our summer picnic event. And in September, Deputy Governor General Gretchen Harvey and I traveled to St. Charles, Ill., to represent the Nebraska Society of the General Society's General Board of Assistants Meeting.

The "headline" for this year is our growing membership. Interest in the Mayflower Society has never been greater. We will add at least 39 new members this year—a record year since our first members were admitted in 1924.

Thanks to all our members who serve as an officer, as a member of the Board of Assistants, or as a project leader. Thank you for everything you do for our Society! I want to recognize former Governor Chuck Harmon who is stepping down as Captain this year. Thanks also to John Keller who led our Nominating Committee this year with Gretchen Harvey and Assistant Governor General Kathryn Morrissey. Thanks also to our new Captain, John Keller, and renewing Board of Assistants members Cheryl Clark, Stephanie Donsig, and Judith Moore.

If you would like to be more involved in our Society, please let me know. I know we can match your interests with the current needs of the Society. And it's fun. Guaranteed! You can reach me at 402-709-3786 or mwbeerman@cox.net. Work continues on my three goals of growing membership, retaining members and creating the best experience and sense of belong for all our members. More about progress on these initiatives in the Spring *Pilgrim News*.

Finally, I hope you will join us for our Annual Meeting and Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, Nov. 18, at a new location: Hillcrest Country Club in Lincoln. There is plenty of free parking and easy access from Interstate 80. Come and bid on an auction item or two benefitting our Scholarship Fund and play Mayflower Bingo! Looking forward to seeing many of you on Nov. 18!

**Marty Beerman, Governor & Historian**

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Spring 2019 Meeting

Our Society's Spring 2019 meeting and lunch is Sunday, April 28—a week later than usual, due to Easter. Our speaker will be Governor General George Garmany. The meeting will be held at Embassy Suites-LaVista, the same location as last spring, starting at 1 p.m.



Marty Beerman and Gretchen Harvey at the Spring Meeting of our Society

## 2018 Annual Meeting Reservation Form

Member Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult(s): \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$27.50/meal      Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Meals: Traditional Thanksgiving \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Entree \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form and checks payable to the **Nebraska Mayflower Society** by Nov. 12 to **Bonnie Kolowski, 4815 South 158<sup>th</sup> Circle Omaha, NE 68135**.

When: Sunday, Nov. 18 at 1 p.m.

Where: Hillcrest Country Club

9410 East O St,

Lincoln

Menu: Traditional Thanksgiving

Dinner or Vegetarian Entree

## Spring 2018 Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Marty Beerman, Kathryn Morrissey, Bonnie Kolowski, Robert Harvey, Ann Reinert, Robert Laughlin, Charles Harmon, Stephanie Donsig, Thomas Masters, Cheryl Clark, John Keller, Judith Moore, John Reinert, DiAnna Schimek, Gretchen Harvey, Susan Rice

### SECRETARY'S REPORT – Bonnie Kolowski

Minutes from November 2017 Meeting in Lincoln, NE were approved as written.

### TREASURER'S REPORT – Bob Harvey

We have a balance of \$24,991 (Cash \$8,955 and a Certificate of Deposit for \$16,036) National Dues paid for 284 members at \$15 for a total of \$4,260 and 25 certificates at \$2 each for a total of \$50. Prior to the next meeting, Treasurer Bob Harvey will send out a financial statement to Officers and Board of Assistants Members. In the spring newsletter there was a form to pay dues. Some people doubled paid dues, so that money will be applied to 2019. People double paying will be contacted. There are about 100 who have not paid their dues. People are dropped from membership after a lapse of two years. Members whose membership is about to be dropped were communicated with via mail.

### JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP - Stephanie Donsig

There are 72 Junior Members. That number is up 6 from the fall. A junior Membership form has been added to the website. The fee is \$20 for a person under the age of 18. A parent or grandparent who is a member must sponsor the applicant.

### EDUCATION REPORT – Kathryn Morrissey

There will be an effort to educate members about our ancestors and First Parish Church through newsletters and at meetings. Members will be encouraged to share stories and information about their family history. There is an exhibit currently at the Durham Museum about Jamestown. Other museums, as well as the Durham, may be open to an exhibit about the Mayflower Passengers.

### HISTORIAN'S/MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Marty Beerman

We began 2017 with 290 members and ended with 284, a net loss of 6. We added 12 new members in 2017, but lost 9 members to death and 9 were dropped for nonpayment of dues. 2018 began with 284 members. We now have 15 new members, including one transfer, bringing our current membership total to 299. We have 15 applications pending approval in Plymouth and another 8 that will be mailed. There are also 15 in progress with applicants. With the 30 new members guaranteed in 2018, and still others in progress, 2018 will be our best membership year since the Society's first "class" in 1924. Our best year until 2018 was in 1976 with 37 new members.

### SCHOLARSHIP REPORT – Gretchen Harvey

35 applications were received. Gretchen Harvey, Mary Beerman, Kathryn Morrissey and Becky Martin read the essays. The winner is a student at Ralston High School, Cassidy Loucks. She will be awarded a check for \$1,620.00, which will be accepted by her mother.

### PUBLICITY REPORT – Tom Masters

Members are encouraged submit articles about our Pilgrim heritage to newspapers. Social media is also an avenue to inform the public about the NE Mayflower Society. Videos and photos will be shared on the website and social media. John Keller will assist in this project.

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## 2018 Directory of Officers

### Governor | Marty Beerman

(402) 553-4118 or nebraskamayflower@gmail.com

### Deputy Governor | Kathryn Morrissey

(402) 670-3836 or kathryn@cwsomaha.com

### Secretary | Bonnie Kolowski

(402) 896-1765 or bkolowsk@hotmail.com

### Treasurer | Robert Harvey

(402) 679-8232 or rharvey@gmail.com

### Historian | Marty Beerman

(402) 553-4118 or mwbeerman@cox.net

### Elder | Ann Reinert

(402) 483-1590 or mar68434@gmail.com

### Counselor | Robert Laughlin

(402) 397-0868 or rallaw@radiks.net

### Captain | Charles Harmon

(402) 290-2701 or cmfiddle1@cox.net

### Pilgrim News Editor | Stephanie Donsig

(402) 326-5504 or sdonsig23@gmail.com

### Public Relations | Thomas Masters

(402) 488-6004 or bec\_corp@inetnebr.com

### Surgeon | Vacant

## Board of Assistants

### Cheryl Clark (2020)

(308) 325-3849 or cherlyclark@q.com

### Stephanie Donsig (2018)

(402) 326-5504 or sdonsig23@gmail.com

### John Keller (2018)

(402) 489-2238 or jfk120@mac.com

### Judith Moore (2018)

(402) 269-3480 or faysyracuse@outlook.com

### John Reinert (2019)

(402) 432-9168 or jr6@aol.com

### DiAnna Schimek (2019)

(402) 423-0262 or dschimek7@gmail.com

### Gretchen Harvey (Past Governor)

(402) 896-5287 or nebraskamayflower@gmail.com

## General Society Officers

### Deputy Governor General | Gretchen Harvey

### Assistant Governor General | Kathryn Morrissey

## Chairs

Education: Kathryn Morrissey, Omaha

Junior Members: Stephanie Donsig, Lincoln

Membership: Marty Beerman, Omaha

Photographer: John Keller, Lincoln

Webmaster: Marty Beerman, Omaha

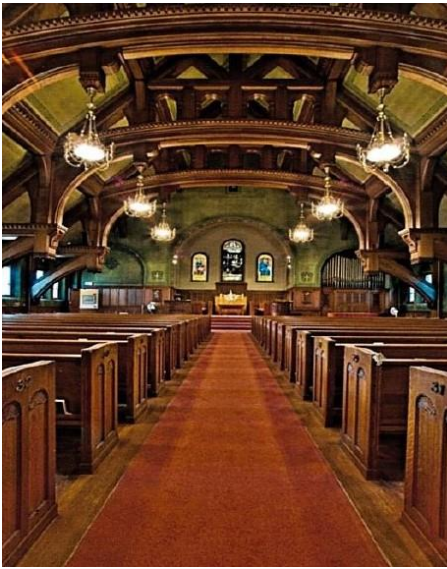
Member Directory: Verla Ringenberg, Lincoln

Scholarship: Gretchen Harvey, Omaha

Scholarship Auction: Cheryl Clark, Elwood



## National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse - An Arts & Crafts Treasure



The Arts and Crafts Interior of National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse and First Parish Church (from *First Parish Meetinghouse* by Donna Petrangelo)

*This is the third articles showcasing the history and significance of the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse, also known as First Parish Church. The General Society has taken on the challenge of raising funds to buy and to refurbish the meetinghouse. The General Society is asking each state society – including ours-- to participate in fundraising over the three years. Our goal is \$5,000. You can support this effort by purchasing a Nebraska Society pin and/or making a cash donation to directly to the project, as described in the sidebar.*

As you may recall from past articles about National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse, the current structure is the fifth building on this high point in Plymouth. The imposing Norman edifice, looking down Leyden Street and onto the harbor, gives no hint of what lies within. Walk through the 121-year-old doors and enter a monument to the Arts & Crafts style!

When the cornerstone for this building was laid in 1896, the Arts & Crafts movement was at its zenith. Started in England, Arts & Crafts was an international decorative and fine arts crusade that spread across Europe and North America. It was a revolt against the Industrial Age. Starting in the late

1700s and flourishing at the turn of the century, factories sprang up and began churning out mass produced goods – affordable but often shoddy. Likewise, Industrial Age buildings were often functional but “cold” -- lacking detail or decoration. Arts & Crafts represented the anti-industrial. Its focus was on natural materials and fine workmanship. The Meetinghouse is an Arts & Crafts hymn written in hand-carved beams, delicate stenciling, handset mosaic tiles and opulent stained glass. Medieval, romantic and folk influences merged to create a place filled with symbolic beauty. The meetinghouse was lovingly constructed to inspire a sense of peace for generations of the faithful.

What makes the meetinghouse unique among American Arts & Crafts buildings is the unaltered state of the original decorations. It may be the only remaining sample of Arts & Crafts architecture designed by the well-known Boston firm of Harwell and Richardson.

As Arts & Crafts Scholar David Berman explained in a lecture delivered in the sanctuary in 2014, there is symbolism here that enhances the architecture. Carefully rendered scallop shells on the oak pew ends, side windows and sanctuary walls represent the pilgrimage across the ocean as well as baptism. Sheaves of wheat and bunches of grapes may reflect the Pilgrims’ reliance on nature’s bounty as well as Holy Communion. According to Berman, the sanctuary’s massive oak hammer beam roof truss traditionally symbolizes the vault of heaven -- while the green of the rough plaster walls and the brown quarter-sawn oak of the hand-carved linen fold paneling symbolizes the Tree of Life.

Additional metaphors of the link between earth and heaven include Celtic knots and intertwining Celtic lines; several crosses with equal-length arms, cherubs carved in wood and stone and what Berman believes are pomegranates on the lectern, baptismal font and vestibule chairs.

Whether it was New England austerity or long-held respect, all of these treasures and more have been

kept in their original state – but sometimes suffering from the results of use, weather and deferred maintenance. Many of the priceless stained glass windows have been removed for restoration under a separate grant. However, much work remains and will be completed in the future if fundraising efforts by the Greater Society of Mayflower Descendants are successful.

Kathryn Morrissey

### How to Donate to the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse

Can you think of a better way to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our ancestor’s arrival in America than refurbishing the church on the site of their original meetinghouse in Plymouth? We can’t either! That’s why the General Society of Mayflower Descendants is asking for your donations for this historic legacy project.

Gifts to the restoration of the meetinghouse will go into a Charitable Trust created by the GSMD with a national goal of \$3 million. Individual donations will be listed online and will count toward our Nebraska Society goal.

The GSMD gratefully will accept cash donations or credit cards. (*Please add “meetinghouse” in the subject line if you send a check.*) They also are gathering pledges. You can access all of this information, and more, by going to: <https://www.themayflowersociety.org/donate/meetinghousedonations>.

If you would like to donate to the project by purchasing our **Nebraska Society pin**, that’s another way to show your support! The cost is \$12.50 per pin. Please send your check to Kathryn Morrissey, 681 North 57 Avenue, Omaha, NE 68132. Please make the check payable to the Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants.



## Welcome to Our Many New Members!

Name	Number	Residence	Ancestor
Elise Lauren Duryea	92873-1122	Fort Calhoun	William Brewster
Math Beth Duryea	92874-1123	Lee's Summit, MO	William Brewster
Seth Paul Duryea	92875-1124	Omaha	William Brewster
Karl Edwin Kraemer	92876-1125	Lee's Summit, MO	William Brewster
Tessa Maureen Kraemer	92877-1126	Lee's Summit, MO	William Brewster
Kelsey Anne (Kraemer) Underwood	92878-1127	Lee's Summit, MO	William Brewster
Cynthia Celeste (Cobel) Fletcher	92893-1128	Omaha	John Alden
Dorothy Patrice (Lathrop) Amstrup	66857-1129	Fremont	Richard Warren
Frances Ann (Schepp) Ruh	92953-1130	Omaha	James Chilton
Kimberly Jo (Blobaum) Tegtmeier	92977-1131	Burchard	John Howland
Lori Ilene (Schrodt) (Fitzwater) Bennett	93128-1132	Alpharetta, GA	Edward Fuller
Audrey Alane (Ankeny) (Armfield) Paulman	93129-1133	Omaha	Stephen Hopkins
Daniel Johnston Duryea	93186-1134	Humboldt	William Brewster
Charles Dana Pereau	93187-1135	Federal Way, WA	Richard Warren
Ruth Ellen Stearns	93188-1136	Lincoln	Richard Warren
Barbara Joean (Coupens) Moran	93231-1137	Omaha	Stephen Hopkins
Judith Maureen (Annable) Webb	93232-1138	Neligh	Stephen Hopkins
Ronald Gale Fink III	93378-1139	Harrison	Francis Cooke
Jeremiah Josiah Fink	93377-1140	Harrison	Francis Cooke
Abigail June Fink	93477-1141	Harrison	William Brewster
Sharon Lynette (Hammerstrom) Campbell	93520-1142	Ainsworth	William Mullins
Sandra Rae (Schipps) Beernink	93595-1143	Omaha	Issac Allerton
Sylvia Anne (Davis) Bergmann	92956-1144	Clarksville, TN	Richard Warren
Sue (Bratt) St. Amant	93646-1145	Omaha	John Howland
Lee (Bratt) Shoomaker	93647-1146	Omaha	John Howland
George Stephen Hewitt	93853-1147	Omaha	George Soule
Gary Dean Kiel	93854-1148	Omaha	Stephen Hopkins
Milada Carinna (Rice) Henke	93937-1149	Freedom, WI	John Howland
Vicky Sue (Hunzeker) McNealy	93938-1150	Humboldt	William Brewster
Gregory Eugene Mertz	93939-1151	Lincoln	Giles Hopkins
Patricia Gertrude (White) Stratton	94009-1152	Troy, NY	Richard Warren
Gary Dean Howland	94047-1153	Redding, CA	John Howland

## Spring 2018 Minutes (continued from page 3)

### GOVERNOR'S UPDATE

**Summer Meeting** - The summer meeting will be held on July 7, 2018 at 9:45 AM at the Lauritzen Gardens. There will be free admission and guided tours. A tram is also available for those wishing to ride through the gardens. Lunch on your own will be available at noon in the café.

**Annual Meeting** - November 18 will be the date of the Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at Hillcrest Country Club in Lincoln (90 & O Streets, Hwy 34). Parking is at the door. The 2019 spring meeting will be held the last Sunday in April, as the third Sunday is Easter.

**Membership Directory** - Verla Ringenburg has volunteered to compile a membership directory. It will be sent to members via email and US mail.

**Constitution & By-laws** - Robert Laughlin outlined several changes to be made to the Constitution and By-Laws. The proposed changes were emailed to members. The proposed changes will be read during the spring meeting and voted on at the Annual Meeting in November 2018.

Lapel pins that benefit the First Parish Church in Plymouth are available for \$10.00 each.

The 990N form was filed with the IRS.

**Scholarship Auction** - The Auction at the fall meeting netted \$1000.00. There was also a donation of \$500. The money from the auction funds the yearly scholarship. A matching Blue Cross donation will be coming.

NEW BUSINESS - None

Other - None

Marty Beerman adjourned the Board of Assistance Meeting.

## In Memoriam

### Betty Rae (Maaske) Foreman

Deceased 21 May 2018

A descendant of John Howland  
Joined 2009

### Jennifer Louise (Williams) Roy

Deceased 14 April 2018

A descendant of John Alden  
Joined 1995

We care about each of our members, so please let us know immediately of any member's illness or death. Send updates to [mwbeerman@cox.net](mailto:mwbeerman@cox.net)

## 2019 Officers & Board Of Assistants Nominees

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following Officers and Board of Assistants for the year 2019:

### OFFICERS

**Governor** | Marty Beerman

**Deputy Governor** | Kathryn Morrissey

**Secretary** | Bonnie Kolowski

**Treasurer** | Robert Harvey

**Historian** | Marty Beerman

**Elder** | Ann Reinert

**Counselor** | Robert Laughlin

**Public Relations** | Thomas Masters

**Captain** | John Keller

**Surgeon** | *Vacant*

### BOARD OF ASSISTANTS

Cheryl Clark (2020)

Stephanie Donsig (2021)

John Keller (2021)

Judith Moore (2021)

John Reinert (2019)

DiAnna Schimek (2019)

Gretchen Harvey (Past Governor)

### GENERAL SOCIETY & OTHER OFFICERS

**Deputy Governor General**

Gretchen Harvey

**Assistant General**

Kathryn Morrissey

**Newsletter Editor** | Stephanie Donsig

**Photographer** | John Keller

**Webmaster** | Marty Beerman

## Update on By-laws and Constitution

Updates to the Nebraska Society's Constitution, presented at the Spring Meeting on April 22, will be voted on at the Society's Annual Meeting on Nov. 18. Updates to By-laws were voted on and approved at the Spring Meeting. The By-laws changes and the updates to the Constitution more accurately reflect how the Society's business is actually conducted by Society officers.

These documents were included with the Spring 2018 edition of *Pilgrim News*.

## 2018 Membership Report

The Nebraska Society began 2018 with 284 members. Since Jan. 1, 37 new member applications have been approved—and at least two more will be approved by year's end. 2018 will be the Nebraska Society's best membership year ever, beating 1976's 37 new members, with at least 39 new members.

One member reinstated. One member transferred. And two members, Betty Rae (Maaske) Foreman, Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Jennifer Louise (Williams) Roy, Newburyport, Mass., died.

This brings the Nebraska Society's current membership total to 319. A dozen or so prospective members are gathering documentation to finalize applications.

## Treasurer's Report Robert Harvey

### NSMD - FALL 2018 REPORT

CASH ON HAND, FEBRUARY 28, 2018		\$ 11,125.30
<b>INCOME</b>		
National Dues	91 @ 15	\$ 1,365.00
State Dues	91 @ 10	\$ 910.00
Junior Member Dues	6 @ 20	\$ 120.00
Applications	12 @ 25	\$ 300.00
Reinstatement Fee	1 @ 15	\$ 15.00
Scholarship Donations		\$ 1,000.00
First Parish Restoration Donations		\$ 695.00
Member Name Tags		\$ 32.00
Spring Meeting Meals	46 @ 35	\$ 1,610.00
General Donations		\$ 20.00
Interest - Checking		\$ 3.89
		<u>\$ 6,070.89</u>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
National Society Dues	284 @ 15	\$ 4,260.00
Membership Certificates	25 @ 2	\$ 50.00
Spring Meeting Expenses (Meals & Meeting Space)		\$ 1,761.22
Scholarship		\$ 1,620.00
Spring 2018 Newsletter Expenses		\$ 520.00
PayPal Fees		\$ 31.59
Postage		\$ 9.50
		<u>\$ (8,252.31)</u>
CASH ON HAND, SEPTEMBER 30, 2018		\$ 8,943.88
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>		
CD - 712679 1.45% (Matures 10/3/20)		\$ 16,093.54
		<u>\$ 16,093.54</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u><u>\$ 25,037.42</u></u>

## 2018 Burt & Becky Whedon Scholarship Recipient



Cassidy Amber Loucks received the 2018 Burt and Becky Whedon, Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,620.00 at our 2018 Spring Meeting.

Cassidy is 2018 Valedictorian, Thespian President, National Honor Society Tutoring Officer, Senior Class Officer, and Rambassador. She is an active volunteer at Ralston Community Theatre and participates in Girls' Tennis and Girls' Golf. She works at Village Inn as a hostess/server and Whitney's Landscaping. Cassidy plans to study Marine Biology at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Applicants were asked to compose an essay, between 750 and 1,000 words on The Mayflower Compact in the form of a letter to family in England describing the impact the compact had on the early life of Plymouth Colony. Essays were evaluated for content, organization, style, grammar, and creativity. Sources were to be cited in appropriate bibliographic style.



## The Winning Essay, by Cassidy Amber Loucks

MARCH 29TH ANNO. 1621

DEAR READER,

I ASK YOU TO RECALL THE COLOR BLUE. IMAGINE ITS PRESENCE WHEREVER YOU TURN FOR OVER TWO MONTHS, FROM THE DISTANT SKIES ABOVE TO THE SWIRLING DEPTHS BELOW. IMAGINE THE BLUE OF THE SEA CHURNING AFTER A RAGING STORM, A ONCE RESPECTABLE DRESS BLEACHED FROM CONSTANT EXPOSURE TO SUN AND SALTWATER. IMAGINE THE DEEP BLUE SHADOWS OF PINE TREES ON FRESHLY FALLEN SNOW, ALL OF CREATION BOWED IN SOLITUDE. IMAGINE THE LIPS OF LOVED ONES, STAINED BLUE FROM THE COLD WINTER, AND THE GRAY BLUE STONES TO MARK THEIR GRAVES. FINALLY, THINK OF THE ENDLESS BLUE SKY THE FIRST DAYS OF SPRING, THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S DIVINE RIGHTEOUSNESS. I CANNOT ESCAPE THE COLOR BLUE, AND SO IT IS ONLY FITTING I WRITE THIS ON THE SEASHORE, STARING FORWARD INTO THE DEPTHS WHICH BROUGHT ME HERE. MY NAME IS ELIZABETH TILLEY, AND I AM MOST PROUDLY A MEMBER OF THE PLYMOUTH COLONY.

FIRST READER, LET ME DESCRIBE TO YOU MY JOURNEY TO THE NEW WORLD. MY FAMILY AND I DEPARTED FROM PLYMOUTH SEPTEMBER SIXTH, ON THE MAYFLOWER. OUR JOURNEY FARED WELL IN THE BEGINNING, THE ONLY AILMENTS WERE CASES OF SEASICKNESS. NEVERTHELESS, THE SECOND LEG WAS A MUCH ROUGHER PASSAGE. CONSTANT STORMS ASSAILED MAN AND WOMAN, MASTER AND SERVANT ALIKE. THE ONLY GLIMMER OF LIGHT WAS IN THE FORM OF A BABY BOY, OCEANUS, BORN TO STEPHEN AND ELIZABETH HOPKINS DURING THE JOURNEY. IT WAS NOT UNTIL THE NINTH OF NOVEMBER THAT WE FIRST GLIMPSED OUR NEW HOME.

OUR SHIP LANDED MUCH FARTHER NORTH THAN PLANNED, OFF THE COAST OF MASSACHUSETTS. THOUGH WE ENDEAVORED TO CONTINUE OUR VOYAGE TOWARDS VIRGINIA, THE COMBINATION OF GHASTLY WEATHER, A DAMAGED SHIP, AND AILING PASSENGERS COMPELLED US TO REMAIN ISOLATED FROM OTHER SETTLERS. OUR COURSE OF ACTION WAS UNCERTAIN; WE HAD SECURED A CONTRACT FROM THE VIRGINIA COMPANY TO SETTLE NEAR THE HUDSON RIVER, BUT THE MAYFLOWER DID NOT REACH ITS INTENDED DESTINATION. DID WE CONTINUE TO LIVE AS IF UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION, OR HAD THE

CONTRACT BEEN ANNULLED? IT WAS CLEAR WE NEEDED SOME FORM OF GOVERNMENT, BUT MANY ARGUMENTS AROSE CONCERNING ITS CREATION AND DETAILINGS.

OUT OF THESE ARGUMENTS AROSE THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT. IT PROMISED THAT WE WOULD WORK TOGETHER TO FORM A UNIFYING SOCIETY, AND THAT WE WOULD CREATE AND ENACT VARIOUS LAWS AND OTHER ORDINANCES AND FOLLOW THEM FOR THE GOOD OF THE COLONY. 41 MEN ABOARD SIGNED IT, INCLUDING MY DEAR FATHER AND UNCLE. ALTHOUGH A GREAT PART OF OUR COMPANY HAD BEEN STRANGERS TO ONE ANOTHER, THIS DOCUMENT FELT LIKE THE FIRST PROMISING STEP TOWARDS A FAIR FUTURE. WE MAY HAVE COME FROM DIFFERENT DEGREES AND FAITHS, BUT THE DOCUMENT WAS A CONJOINT ACTION.

WERE IT NOT FOR THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT, I AM CONFIDENT WE WOULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED THE WINTER. AT FIRST, WE RESIDED ON THE MAYFLOWER, WHILE THE MEN MADE EXCURSIONS EACH DAY TO FIND THE BEST SETTLING PLACE. BY CHRISTMAS, WE HAD CHOSEN A LOCATION, BUT THE WEATHER FAIRED TOO POOR TO BUILD MORE THAN A FEW STRUCTURES. THUS, OUR QUARTERS REMAINED CONFINED TO THE MAYFLOWER. HERE THE SICKNESS BEGAN TO SPREAD. AS THE MEN RETURNED FROM EXCURSIONS DRENCHED AND FROZEN, THEY SPREAD SEVERE MALADY TO THE PEOPLE. AT FIRST, IT WAS ONE OR TWO, BUT IN THE THREE MONTHS THROUGH THE DEAD OF WINTER, WE LOST OVER HALF OUR NUMBER. THIS INCLUDES MY MOTHER AND FATHER, JOAN AND JOHN TILLEY, AS WELL AS AUNT AGNES AND UNCLE EDWARD. LET MY LETTER BE A RECORD OF THEIR UNDENIABLE BRAVERY, AND THE INSPIRATION THEY PROVIDE TO ME. I REFLECT UPON WHY I LIVED AND THEY DIED, BUT I DO BELIEVE IN HIS PLAN, AND HIS WILL BE DONE. IT IS TRULY A TEST OF OUR DEVOTION TO ONE ANOTHER AND OUR CAUSE TO HAVE SUFFERED THESE FATES. THE SICKNESS MAY HAVE MADE OUR BODIES WEAK, BUT THE COMPACT KEPT OUR HEARTS AND MINDS UNITED AND STRONG, RATHER THAN DESCEND INTO THE MADNESS SO LIKELY TO COME AFTER GREAT LOSS.

NOW AS WE NEAR THE END OF MARCH, WE HAVE MOVED PERMANENTLY TO THE SHORE, AND HAVE FURTHER ESTABLISHED OUR COLONY.

OUR LAW DERIVES ITS POWER FROM THE GOVERNED, NOT THE FIXED MIND OF KINGS, AND THE COMPACT IS LIVING PROOF THAT ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE FOUNDATION OF STRONG GOVERNMENT AND HIS GRACE. OUR SURVIVAL SETS A PRECEDENT FOR YEARS TO COME, AND THUS, MANY OTHER COLONISTS WRITE TO FAMILY ACROSS THE SEA, ENTREATING THEM TO JOIN US ON THIS GREAT EXPERIMENT OF THE HEARTS OF MEN AND WOMEN ALIKE. ALTHOUGH I AM ORPHANED HERE, I DO NOT FEEL ALONE. MY FAMILY AND MY FAITH REMAIN STRONG IN MY HEART, AND I KNOW THE WORSE HAS SURELY PASSED.

THE MAYFLOWER WILL RETURN TO ENGLAND IN A WEEK, BUT THIS LETTER WILL NOT BE ON IT. I PLACE MY MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE, IN THE HOPES IT WILL FIND ANOTHER SOUL LIKE MINE. SPRING IS DESCENDING UPON OUR COLONY AND I DRAW STRENGTH FROM THE LAND, FROM MY PEOPLE. AS NEW BLADES OF GRASS PUSH THROUGH LADEN MUD, SO WE FORAGE TOGETHER IN ESTABLISHING THIS BRAVE NEW WORLD. ABOVE ALL, I BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF GOD'S GRACE, AND MY PEOPLE, THAT WE WILL NEVER SURRENDER FROM THE CREATION OF A WORLD THAT PROVIDES FREEDOM, PROTECTION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL.

PRAY THEE REMEMBER ME,  
ELIZABETH TILLEY

SOURCES:

DEETZ, PATRICIA SCOTT, ET AL. "PLYMOUTH COLONY ARCHIVE PROJECT." *THE PLYMOUTH COLONY ARCHIVE PROJECT*, OCT. 200AD, [WWW.HISTARCH.ILLINOIS.EDU/PLYMOUTH/](http://WWW.HISTARCH.ILLINOIS.EDU/PLYMOUTH/).

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JOHNSON, CALEB. "TILLEY-ELIZABETH." *MAYFLOWERHISTORY.COM*, 1994, [MAYFLOWERHISTORY.COM/TILLEY-ELIZABETH/](http://MAYFLOWERHISTORY.COM/TILLEY-ELIZABETH/).

"MAYFLOWER COMPACT." *AVALON PROJECT - MAYFLOWER COMPACT : 1620*, YALE LAW SCHOOL, 2008, [AVALON.LAW.YALE.EDU/17TH\\_CENTURY/MAYFLOWER.ASP](http://AVALON.LAW.YALE.EDU/17TH_CENTURY/MAYFLOWER.ASP).  
EAR GRANDFATHER,



## Celebrating Membership Milestones

Congratulations to the following members, who have milestone membership anniversaries this year:

45 years – 1973

**Betty Jean (Dexter) Tomsic**, Kewanee, Ill.

40 years – 1978

**Darla Jo (Ring) Schorr**, Pekin, Ill.

**Katherine (Hoffman) Thomason**, Kaneohe, HI

**Barbara Louise (Semon) Swanson**, Cozad

**Judith Ann (Kier) Scharf**, Denver, Colo.

30 years – 1988

**Mark Allyn Esslinger**, McLouth, Kan.

**Kathryn Diane Bradley**, Omaha

25 years – 1993

**Richard Warren Hungerford Jr.**, Omaha

**Betty Darlene (Curl) Rejda**, Burwell

20 years – 1998

**Carolyn Frieda (Voss) Jacobsen**, Kearney

15 years – 2003

**Rex David Glover**, Omaha

**Christine Renae (Wingate) Nelson**, Lincoln

**Janet Sue Brewster**, Stuart

**Beth Ellen (Jorgensen) Sparrow**, Kearney

**Phillip Patrick Spencer**, Gretna

10 years – 2008

**Laura Ellen (Humphrey) Cummings**, APO Armed Forces Europe

**Kay Elaine (Bauman) Blair**, Grand Island

**Elaine Joan (Fillman) Bodenburg**, Playa Del Rey, Calif.

**Karl Edward Bauman**, Chapel Hill, N.C.

**Brandon Kyle Hardy**, Ainsworth

**Emily Rebecca (Cummings) Bingham**, Sneeds Ferry, N.C.

**Richard Paul Moore**, Syracuse

**Kim Billy Blair**, Arlington, Mass.

**William Joseph Cooney**, Lincoln

**Kim Elise (Carey) Butler**, McCook

**Corey Grant Phillips**, Lincoln

**Stephanie Kay (Weber) Axthelm**, Gothenburg, NE

**Gwen Ellen (Johnson) Otte**, Gordon

**Gretchen Kay (Heizer) Harvey**, Omaha

**Linda Kay (Burt) Rebrovic**, Omaha

**Beverly Ann (Burt) Epke**, Lincoln

**Janet Lynne (Burt) Eggers**, Superior

**Bryan Alan Eggers**, Superior

**Marcia Mills (Laging) Cummings**, Lincoln

**Glenn Edward Miller**, Lincoln

**Erin Elisabeth (Cummings) Wilhelm**, Lincoln

**Jerry Wayne Miller**, Fairbury

## What are your favorite Thanksgiving recipes?

Food and family are essential ingredients for Thanksgiving traditions. To capture the Thanksgiving spirit, we are preparing a collection of recipes featuring favorite Thanksgiving recipes from our members. The collection will be featured on our website and available to members without internet access in paper format.

Please submit your favorite Thanksgiving recipes so you can be represented. Your name will be printed with each of your recipes. There are three ways to submit recipes:

1. Online, via this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QDW2ZH7>, or

2. email [jebeerman@gmail.com](mailto:jebeerman@gmail.com); or

3. Postal mail to:

Jane Beerman

8704 Douglas Street

Omaha, NE 68114

For email or mail submissions, please include the following for each recipe:

**CATEGORY:** Designate one of the following: appetizers & beverages; soups & salads; vegetables & side dishes; main dishes; breads & rolls; desserts; cookies & candies; and this & that.

**INGREDIENTS:** List ALL ingredients in order of use.

**DIRECTIONS:** Include amounts, sizes (i.e. 2 (8oz. cans), temps and baking/cooking times.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

Questions? Reach out to Jane, via phone 402-553-4118 or email: [jebeerman@gmail.com](mailto:jebeerman@gmail.com)



## Membership Milestones (con't)

5 years – 2013

**Kaitlin Elizabeth Harvey**, Omaha

**Robert William Harvey**, Omaha

**Amy LaVonne (Chase) Dempsey**, Omaha

**Barbara Jean (Boardman) Wilhlem**, Unadilla

**Mary Elaine (Boardmen) Hanke**, Omaha

**Rachel Therese Zeiger**, Grand Island

**Howard Leon Doty**, Crete

**Judith (Lewis) Mori**, Omaha

**Darlene Marie (Swartz) Miltner**, Lincoln

**Sharon Lynn (Hanson) Frey**, Omaha

**Mark Douglas Frey**, Omaha

**Carol Jean (Pelican) Hietbrink**, Palmer

**Ann Elizabeth (Higgins) Cox**, Omaha

**Molly Susan (Higgins) O'Holleran**, North Platte

## 2019 Burt and Becky Whedon Scholarship Applications due on March 31, 2019

At our spring meeting in April 2019, we will be awarding the fifth Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants Burt & Becky Whedon Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,620 to a high school senior planning on attending an accredited 4-year college or university.

An avid genealogist, Becky (Allen) Whedon joined our Nebraska Society in 1982, a descendant of Pilgrim Francis Cooke, as well as Pilgrim Richard Warren. Becky served as our Society's historian for 18 years, from 1989 to 2007, completing applications for 167 members. Burt joined the Nebraska Society in 1977, a descendant of John Howland, as well as William Brewster. The Whedons served the Society as Deputy Governor General and Assistant General for many years, traveling to Plymouth for Mayflower General Congress and to the annual Board of Assistants meetings around the country. Becky died in Omaha on January 16, 2011, at the age of 84. Burt died in Omaha on April 27, 2011, at the age of 88.

Scholarship applicants must be residents of Nebraska and United States citizens. Applications will be evaluated by a written essay, GPA and class rank, ACT or SAT scores, honors received, school or volunteer activities, employment, demonstrated leadership, and a letter of recommendation from a teacher or guidance counselor. Mayflower ancestry is NOT a requirement.

You will find the info needed to apply for the scholarship at our website. The applications must be submitted in one PDF attachment, no later than **March 31, 2019**, to:

[nebraskamayflower@gmail.com](mailto:nebraskamayflower@gmail.com)

## Junior Membership Report

The gift of a junior membership ensures that your family history is preserved and remembered.

If you know someone under the age of 18 who is related by an established bloodline to a sponsor (either a present or past member of the Mayflower Society), then consider sponsoring that person to become a junior member. There is a one-time application fee of \$20. The application process is simple. Junior membership expires at age 25; however, between the ages of 18 and 25, a junior member can become a member of our state society through the regular application process. You can start the process by downloading an application from the [nebraskamayflower.org](http://nebraskamayflower.org) website (under How to Join). Feel free to ask me questions. My email address is [sdonsig23@gmail.com](mailto:sdonsig23@gmail.com).

Want to learn more about national junior membership? You can check it out on Facebook at GSMD Jr Mayflower Descendants Social Networking. You will learn what is happening with junior members nationally and learn some amazing facts. And for our Nebraska society, we plan our summer event with junior members in mind. It will be fun for members of all ages!

Stephanie Donsig, Junior Membership Chair

The Spring 2018 meeting, held in Omaha, drew a crowd of NSMD members. (Photo courtesy of John Keller)



## 2018 General Society of Mayflower Descendants Board of Assistants Meeting

During the first week in September, the General Society held its Board of Assistants meeting in St. Charles, Illinois. I attended as Deputy Governor General, and my husband Bill and I also took the time during the trip to travel to the Newberry Library in Chicago, which contains many historical reference items relating to our Society. Our Governor, Marty Beerman, traveled to St. Charles with his wife Jane, and attended as Acting Assistant General and as our Historian. We had a great time attending the meetings, and seeing our Mayflower friends. Our Governor General, George Garmany, did a terrific job in leading the Board of Assistants meeting. Our Historian General, Midge Hurtuk, reported that applications to the Society have increased by 25% in the last six months, which is attributed to the excitement generated by the upcoming 2020 anniversary. It was further reported that donations from members to the meetinghouse in Plymouth are over \$180,000, with approximately \$48,000 remaining in outstanding member society pledges. Our past Governor General, Lea Filson, reported that a charitable trust is in the process of being put in place for the meetinghouse, and that the trust has applied for a 2.6 million dollar grant from the town of Plymouth Community Preservation Act fund. If granted, the fundraising total would be \$2,832,167, leaving \$167,833 to meet the goal of \$3,000,000 by September of 2020.

In other news, our Governor General discussed the two periodicals published by our Society, the Mayflower Quarterly magazine, which contains information about the activities of our organization, and the Mayflower Journal, which contains scholarly articles about the Pilgrims and Colonial America. Due to the resignation of the editor of the Journal, and input from the members, the Executive Committee has decided that the last issue of the Journal will be published this fall and the Mayflower Quarterly, which will continue to be published, will be merging society news with historical and genealogical articles.

I am honored to have been asked to be a member of the 2020 Committee to help plan all the activities and celebrations, which will take place in 2020 in Boston, Plymouth, and Provincetown, Massachusetts. I am looking forward to reporting to you about the plans for this historic occasion, and hope that you will be able to attend. If anyone has any questions about these celebrations, or any other questions about the Board of Assistants Meeting, please feel free to get in touch with me and I will be happy to provide you with further information.

Gretchen Harvey

## Donations to our Society from January 1, 2017

To recognize the generosity and support of all those who have donated funds to our society, we will be listing their contributions each year. For this inaugural list, we go back more than one year, listing all donors from the start of 2017 to the present. Special thanks to Bob Harvey for his help with this work.

### Donations to Meetinghouse Restoration

Gretchen Harvey, \$100.00  
Steve Hunt, \$500.00  
Kathryn Morrissey, \$5,000.00

We are also very thankful to the many people who bought 61 pins to support this project, which raised \$617.00 for the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse.

### Donations to Whedon Scholarship, including auction sales

Marty Beerman, \$1,000.00  
Blue Cross Blue Shield, \$1,000.00  
Cheryl Clark, \$298.00  
Ann Cox, \$54.00  
Charles & Mary Davis, \$100.00  
Stephanie Donsig, \$75.00  
Priscilla Grew, \$90.00  
Charles Harmon, \$52.00  
Gretchen Harvey, \$770.00  
Steve Hunt, \$30.00  
Kathleen & John Keller, \$120.00  
Bonnie Kolowski, \$70.00  
Barbara Laughlin, \$22.00  
Robert Laughlin, \$25.00  
Norman & Betty Mapes, \$25.00  
Garry & Rebecca Martin, \$60.00  
Leon Messenger, \$20.00  
Paul Moore, \$17.00  
Kathryn Morrissey, \$80.00  
The Rademachers, \$70.00  
John Reinert, \$100.00  
Susan Rice, \$5.00

### Donations to the Nebraska Society

Marty Beerman, \$688.25  
Ronald Fink, \$20.00  
Leon Messenger, \$10.00

If we have inadvertently missed a donation, please let us know. The generous support of NSMD members is essential to the work of the society.





## Pilgrim News

8704 Douglas St  
Omaha, NE 68114-4035

## 2018 Summer Meeting (courtesy of John Keller)



More than 20 members and guests gathered at Omaha's Lauritzen Gardens in July for a guided tour of the gardens and lunch. It was a beautiful day to share with cousins!